THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chief Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh *vide* his letter dated 13.02.2001 has urged to provide assistance to the Integrated Cooperative Credit Structure of Andhra Pradesh out of the proposed Cooperative Rehabilitation and Development Fund to extinguish the entire accumulated losses and imbalances amounting to about Rs. 1161 crores. This letter was suitably replied by the Agriculture Minister on 23.4.2001.

(c) and (d) As mentioned in the reply to (b) above, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for financial assistance from the proposed Cooperative Rehabilitation and Development Fund to extinguish the losses and imbalances of the Integrated Cooperative Credit Structure amounting to about Rs. 1161 crores. There was no separate request to waive off the accumulated losses.

**Funds to A.P. under AMDP**

3546. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has failed to utilize the Central Funds released under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP);

(b) if not, what are the details of funds released to the State under AMDP during the last three years, year-wise and unspent balance at the end of each years; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that the Maize Development Programme gets the desired boost in the State and funds are genuinely spent on it?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP), the percentage of total utilization of Central funds by State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been 76.43% up to 31.3.2001 since the inception of the scheme (1995-96) in the State.

(b) The year-wise details of funds released by Government of India, funds utilized by State Government of Andhra Pradesh and unspent balances

as on 1st April of each financial year for the last three years are given as under:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Year | Funds released byGOI | Total funds available during the year | Amount utilized by A.P. | Unspent balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 50.30 | 94.926 | 51.840 | 44.626 as on 1/4/1998 |
| 1999-2000 | 37.33 | 80.416 | 23.234 | 43.086 as on 1/4/1999 |
| 2000-2001 | 10.00 | 67.182 | 25.256 | 57.182 as on 1/4/2000 |
| TOTAL: | 97.63 | | 100.33 | 41.926 as on 1/4/2001 |

(c) Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Memo / proposal for the Ninth Plan for effective implementation of AMDP addressed the major constraints responsible for lower production of maize, by including / proposing the components relating to assistance for Nucleus, Breeder and Foundation seed production of maize to ICAR, foundation seed production by State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) / National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and assistance for Seed Bank Scheme. All these components are to be provided assistance @ 100% by GOI. Other new components which were proposed and where assistance is to be provided @ 75% by GOI and the remaining 25% to be contributed by the State Government, include demonstrations on weedicides incentives for seed treatment / PP chemicals and demonstrations on improved crop and seed production technology to increase the seed production at farmers' field. The proposal, approved by EFC & the Agriculture Minister, has, however, not been concurred in by the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission. The Hon'ble Agriculture Minister has approved the inclusion of a new Technology Mission on maize for the 10th Plan.

Besides, based on previous experiences, Government of Andhra Pradesh have taken following measures to ensure that the Maize Development Programme gets the desired boost in the State:—

(i) Timely releases of funds in the beginning of each financial year;

(ii) Advance communication of action plan and physical and financial targets alongwith guidelines to the districts; and

(iii) Creation of awareness by ensuring participation of farmers in training programmes and State workshops and wide publicity through electronic media.